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14 FEB 1971

Secret Service Expands

When President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, the Secret Service had fewer than 400 agents and a haphazard intelligence system that focused narrowly on its primary responsibility—protecting the President and Vice President.

Secret Service now has more than 1,000 agents, a uniformed division that will soon reach 850 and a computerized intelligence section. The service is asking, for fiscal year 1972, for a budget of \$36.3 million—about 10 times the \$5.7 million it received in 1963.

The impetus for the drastic expansion arose directly from the presidential assassination.

In 1964, the Warren Commission's investigation of the assassination included a recommendation that Secret Service develop a sophisticated liaison with other federal agencies to gather information that might bear, even indirectly, on protecting the President and Vice President.

Threateners Identified

This led ultimately to the collection of threats to other public officials, including senators and congressmen. Similar intelligence comes from more than 60 Secret Service field offices, FBI, State Department, CIA, and the Capitol and Metropolitan police.

This intelligence is fed into a Secret Service computer that now holds the names of more than 100,000 persons whose words or actions have marked them for special attention as potential assassins.

During budget hearings in 1969, Secret Service officials testified they checked 6,000 names a month through the computer and expected the figure to double during the 1972 presidential election campaign.

Field Offices Empty

In 1968, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was murdered in Los Angeles and President Johnson immediately ordered Secret Service protection for all major presiden-

tial and vice presidential candidates. Congress quickly rammed through enabling legislation.

Secret Service emptied its field offices. Between June and election day, agents put in a total of 270,384 overtime hours protecting the remaining 12 candidates.

Secret Service estimated a need for an additional 528 agents to handle the new duties, and Congress authorized them in three increments for fiscal years 1970, '71 and '72.

Another major expansion of Secret Service duties came last summer when Congress permitted the expansion of the 250-man White House police unit into an 850-man Executive Protective Service. This unit now is charged with protecting the White House, Executive Office Building and the 111 diplomatic missions in the Washington area.

In the last few years other changes in the law have given the Secret Service protection duties for the unmarried widow and children of past Presidents, and former Presidents and their wives.

LBJ Protected

President Nixon has also been authorized to provide Secret Service protection to visiting foreign heads of state and other "distinguished foreign visitors."

He also may order protection for Americans performing missions abroad for the government.

A team of eight agents, six special officers and a clerk are still assigned to former President Johnson. Eight agents are assigned to former President Truman.

The children of President Kennedy have eight agents to protect them until they reach age 16, but their mother, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, has no protection because she remarried.

A total of 14 agents and special officers are assigned to Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower. Two more Secret Service agents are stationed in Gettysburg, near the family farm.

Federal Computers Amass Files on Suspect Citizens

Many Among Hundreds of Thousands
Listed Have No Criminal Records—
Critics See Invasion of Privacy

By BEN A. FRANKLIN
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 27 — The police, security and military intelligence agencies of the Federal Government are quietly compiling a mass of computerized and microfilmed files here on hundreds of thousands of law abiding yet suspect Americans.

With the justification that a revolutionary age of assassination, violent political dissent and civil disorder requires it, the Government is building an array of instantly retrievable information on "persons of interest."

The phrase is an agent's term for those citizens, many with no criminal records, whom the Government wants to keep track of in an effort to avert subversion, rioting and violence or harm to the nation's leaders.

Critics of this surveillance, so far few in number, believe that the collection and dissemination of such information on noncriminals — for whatever purpose — is unauthorized by law and raises the most serious constitutional questions.

The foremost among them, Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, has said that computerized files already in existence here are leading the country toward a "police state."

Discussions with officials, an examination of some known data files and information supplied by the Senator show that the files often contain seemingly localized and mundane information reflecting events that today are virtually commonplace.

The leader of a Negro protest against welfare regulations in St. Louis, for example, is the subject of a teletyped "spot report" to Washington shared by as many as half a dozen Government intelligence gathering groups.

The name of a college professor who finds himself unwittingly, even innocently, arrested for disorderly conduct in a police roundup at a peace rally in San Francisco goes into the data file.

A student fight in an Alabama high school is recorded — if it is interracial.

Government officials insist that the information is needed and is handled discretely to protect the innocent, the minor offender and the repentant.

The critics — including the Washington chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and Representative Cornelius E. Gallagher, Democrat of New Jersey — charge that the system is an invasion of privacy and a potential infringement of First Amendment rights to free speech and assembly.

Mass Surveillance Systems

Senator Ervin, a conservative, a student of the Constitution, a former judge of the North Carolina Superior Court, and the chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, says that the advent of computer technology in Government file keeping is pushing the country toward "a mass surveillance system unprecedented in American history."

In a recent series of Senate speeches, Mr. Ervin said that the danger was being masked by a failure of Americans to understand "the computer mystique" and by the undoubted sincerity and desire for "efficiency" of the data bank operators and planners.

The Government is gathering information on its citizens at the following places:

A Secret Service computer, one of the newest and most sophisticated in Government. In its memory the names and dossiers of activists, "malcontents," persistent seekers of redress, and those who would "embarrass" the President or other Government leaders are filed with those of potential assassins and persons convicted of "threats against the President."

A data bank compiled by the Justice Department's civil disturbance group. It produces a weekly printout of national tension points on racial, class and political issues and the individuals and groups involved in them. Intelligence on peace rallies, welfare protests and the like provide the "data base" against which the computer measures the mood of the nation and the militancy of its citizens. Judgments are made: subjects are listed as "radical" or "moderate."

A huge file of microfilmed intelligence reports, clippings and other materials on civilian activity maintained by the Army's Counterintelligence Analysis Division in Alexandria, Va. Its purpose is to help prepare deployment estimates for troop commands on alert to respond to civil disturbances in 25 American cities. Army intelligence was ordered earlier this year to destroy a larger data bank and to stop assigning agents to "penetrate" peace groups and civil rights organizations. But complaints persist that both are being continued. Civilian officials of the Army say they "assume" they are not.

Computer files intended to catch criminal suspects — the oldest and most advanced type with the longest success record — maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center and recently installed by the Customs Bureau. The crime information center's computer provides 40,000 instant, automatic teletype printouts each day on wanted persons and stolen property to 49 states and Canada and it also "talks" to 24 other computers operated by state and local police departments for themselves and a total of 2,500 police jurisdictions. The center says its information is all "from the public record," based on local and Federal warrants and complaints, but the sum product is available only to the police.

A growing number of data banks on other kinds of human behavior, including, for example, a cumulative computer file on 300,000 children of migrant farm workers kept by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The object is to speed the distribution of their scholastic records, including such teacher judgments as "negative attitude," to school districts with large itinerant student enrollments. There is no statutory control over distribution of the data by its local recipients — to prospective employers, for example.

Warning by Ervin

Senator Ervin has warned, "Regardless of the purpose, regardless of the confidentiality, regardless of the harm to any one individual [that might occur if there were no computer files], the very existence of Government files on how people exercise First Amendment rights, how they think, speak, assemble and act in lawful pursuits, is a form of official psychological coercion to keep silent and to refrain from acting."

But despite his sounding of such alarms, Senator Ervin has noted that there is "unusual public and Congressional complacency." When he speaks on the Senate floor of "techniques for monitoring our opinions" and of "grave threats to our freedoms," the chamber is more often than not nearly empty. He has gained little Congressional support and scant attention outside the Congress.

Meanwhile, various official and high-level pressures on Government agencies to acquire computers and to advance their surveillance are producing results.

The pressures include a stern recommendation for the broadest possible surveillance of "malcontents" and potential assassins by the Warren Commission, which investigated the assassination of President Kennedy. The commission's mandate is widely cited in the Government as the authority for citizen surveillance.

The commission, headed by former Chief Justice Earl Warren, disapproved as too narrow, the criteria for persons to be brought under "protective" surveillance proposed in 1964 by the Secret Service. The guidelines were "unduly restrictive," the commission declared, because they required evidence of "some manifestation of animus" by disgruntled and activist citizens before those persons could be brought under Secret Service surveillance as potential "threats to the President."

'Every Available Resource'

"It will require every available resource of the Government to devise a practical system which has any reasonable possibility of revealing such malcontents," the commission said.

The guideline was broadened. A computer was installed by the Secret Service last January. The commission's edict became a surveillance bench mark.

For surveillance of persons who may be involved in civil disturbances, the riots of 1967

1 May 1970

STATINTL

MURDER PLOTS

The U.S. Secret Service is asking Congress for new legislation to help it protect the President, his family and Cabinet officers. Secret Service Chief James J. Rowley recently told the Senate Judiciary Committee: "The Secret Service has become concerned about the rising crescendo of national militancy and confrontation, and instances of the preachment of assassination and violent revolution. . . . In my view, the militancy of the dissident groups in our midst will increase in fervor. The questioning of all authority and the frequency of attempts at the disruption of our society will continue. This activity could generate a greater propensity for attacks upon our leaders. . . . At the present time, we do not have a Federal statute which specifically authorizes the Secret Service to restrict entry to areas where the President may be residing temporarily when he leaves the seat of Government. Further, we do not have at the present time a Federal criminal law which specifically prohibits disorderly or disruptive conduct in close proximity to an area temporarily occupied by the President."

"Many individuals have questioned the authority of our agents to restrict their entrance into secured areas occupied by the President. For example, while the President was visiting a Midwestern city recently, an individual refused to move from an area where the President's automobile was to be parked upon his arrival."

Confidentially, the Secret Service is being inundated with investigative reports from the CIA and FBI about assassination plots against President Nixon and other political leaders, including Vice President Agnew and Gov. George Wallace.

Federal security officials are privately expressing great alarm. Under Federal statutes they have little or no authority to take prompt, protective measures.

STATINTL

SACRAMENTO, CAL.
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NOV 14 1969

Another Viewpoint

Secret Service's Bizarre Rules

Editorial from The
San Francisco
Chronicle

The guidelines that have been issued by the Secret Service to help protect the safety of the President and other high officials are alarmingly broad. They call for police departments and other agencies to send in vast categories of information about individual citizens that would appear to have little to do with the Secret Service's function. In their least harmful aspect, the guidelines appear overzealous; in their worst, oppressive of dissent and partaking of police-state tactics.

For example, the Secret Service calls on police and other agencies, like the FBI and the CIA, to report information "regarding civil disturbances." Does this mean that every person arrested for participating in a "civil disturbance" (and how is that defined?) is to be recorded in some Washington data bank as of potential

harm to the personal safety of the President of the United States?

The Secret Service also wants information on people seeking "redress of imaginary grievances" and on people making "irrational" or "abusive" statements about high government officials. That would take in a lot of people. Who of us has never made an irrational statement about a high government official? And what is an "imaginary grievance"? The income tax? The refusal of the executive to order a cease-fire in Vietnam?

When interpreted by some police departments we are familiar with, this guideline could spread a net for someone who may only have expressed the wish that the President would drop dead. In Franklin D. Roosevelt's time (to go back to an era of considerable political emotion) the

guideline could well have provided the Secret Service with 20 million names.

Another request is for information "regarding anti-American or anti-US government demonstrations." Marching in protest against the war in Vietnam is, we suppose, assessable as antigovernment. Are the names of all the students, housewives, professors, businessmen and other assorted millions of citizens who have done that, and intend to keep on doing it, to be collected?

Dissent is one thing, a palpable menace to the safety of the President quite another. The Secret Service is a trustworthy organization, but it is allowed to gather such broad information as this, we fear the temptation will be very great to use it indiscriminately and unfairly.

HARTFORD, CONN.
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NOV 9 1969

Secret Service Lists Feared

Special to The Hartford Times

WASHINGTON — The Secret Service has issued "guidelines" to the nation's federal and local law enforcement agencies, which, if literally interpreted, would have them collect negative information about vast numbers of Americans.

Labeled "For Official Use Only," the guidelines apparently were issued last summer to supplant another set that had stemmed from recommendations of the Warren Commission, which investigated the assassination of President Kennedy.

But the current guidelines apparently go far beyond those envisioned by the Warren Commission.

Jack Warner, an assistant to the Secret Service director, said the guidelines had been intended to facilitate the gathering of information to be used to protect the president.

"U.S. Secret Service Liaison Yet the wording of the Guidelines" requests not only information about obvious threats to the president and others protected by the service but also:

- Information about attempts to "embarrass" high officials.
- Information "regarding civil disturbances."

- Information on people seeking "redress of imaginary grievances, etc."

- Information on people making "irrational" or "abusive statements" about high government officials.

- Information "regarding anti-American or anti-U.S. government demonstrations."

One Secret Service official, who requested anonymity, said:

"The choice of language is certainly unfortunate and could mislead less sophisticated people into thinking that they should collect and send us information

that certainly wasn't desired."

The guidelines direct the mailing of "routine reports" to Secret Service headquarters here and the telephoning of "emergency information, especially in reference to presidential protection."

The guidelines have been sent to at least seven federal law enforcement agencies including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency, as well as to many of the nation's police departments.

Many legal and scientific groups have recently been protesting the collection of such information and its use

against persons seeking full or part-time federal employment because the practice leads to blacklisting.

The groups concerned with blacklisting contend that unsubstantiated claims of abnormal behavior and participation in political activities, usually left-wing, find their way into security "data banks" of many federal agencies.

According to the contentions, the agencies then trade the information among themselves. Information that might be regarded as innocuous in one agency might be regarded as extremely damaging in another.

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Secret Service Burden Grows

By Robert L. Jackson
Los Angeles Times

They wear a distinctive red, silver and blue lapel pin, but crave anonymity. Only in times of crisis is their presence noted.

For members of the elite Secret Service and those they protect, these days are critical indeed.

With its biggest budget ever, \$20.8 million, \$2 million more than it sought, the agency has been handed the biggest assignment of its career, guarding all presidential candidates.

Some congressional sources believe the job may overtax its limited manpower and resources.

"We never discuss any problems we have," a Secret Service spokesman said. But James J. Rowley, the agency's director, told a House Appropriations subcommittee in March:

"The oncoming election year is expected to place the most stringent demands yet encountered upon Secret Service manpower resources."

That was even before the Service was ordered to protect five presidential candidates on a 24-hour basis after the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, who wanted no protection.

Despite a 25 per cent budget



Secret Service men pave the way for New York. Agents have been assigned to Presidential hopeful, Sen. McCarthy in protect all Presidential candidates

increase granted to the Service after the slaying, new techniques and new cooperation with other law enforcement agencies will have to be instituted, say members of Congress who have studied the problem.

Sen. A. S. Mike Monroney (D-Okla.) said the Secret Service in recent years has sometimes sought help from other Federal departments, including the FBI, the Central Intelligence Agency and branches of the military.

But there was no legal basis for it to enter into formal agreements "to insure continuous and permanent cooperation," Monroney said.

He said legislation approved by Congress this month provides that legal foundation, so now it is up to the Secret Service to move.

"The Secret Service" must utilize all the resources of the

Federal Government," said Sen. Ralph Yarborough (D-Tex.).

The FBI, in fact, is assisting in the protection of candidates where needed, since each candidate requires about 20 men who work separate shifts. With 6700 agents, the FBI has five times the strength of the Secret Service.

Sometimes the candidates seem overly protected.

At a recent press conference, former Minnesota Gov. Harold Stassen, a perennial Republican candidate, was sealed off from some reporters when agents locked the door precisely at the moment he started talking.

Another candidate, Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy (D-Minn.), says of the Secret Service, with a smile:

"You have to accept them and act as if they're not there."